REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 16-37 are pending in this application. Claims 38-52 are added herein.

Claims 1, 16, 18, 19 and 20 are independent.

The new claims find support, for example, in Figure 7 and its description on page 46, lines 22-27, and Figure 9 and its description on page 47, line 27, thru page 48, line 7.

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENT

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action contends that specification fails to disclose "(i) determining a first factor associated with the first predetermined win rank and a second factor associated with the second predetermined win rank, computing a sum of the determined first and second factors, and computing the win amount by multiplying the amount bet by the player by the computed sum, or (ii) determining a largest of the first factor and the second factor, and computing the win amount by multiplying the amount bet by the player by the determined largest factor."

However, it is respectfully submitted that the recited limitations are fully disclosed on page 59, line 27, through page 60, line 17, of the present application specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

OBVIOUSNESS

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 16-23, 26 and 33-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as obvious over newly cited and applied Wei et al. (U.S. Patent 6,079,711) in view of newly cited and applied Matsumoto (U.S. Patent 5,639,089). The other pending claims are also rejected as obvious over the base

combination of references in further view of (i) in the case of claims

7 and 24-25, newly cited an applied Darby (U.S. Appl. Pub. 2003/0130024), and

(ii) in the case of claims 27-32, newly cited an applied Yoseloff (U.S.

Patent 6,398,645). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Independent Claims Distinguish Over the Combination of Wei and

Matsumoto

      Each of the independent claims requires that (i) the matrix contain a

plurality of cells, each of which has an allocated symbol (preferably a symbol

commonly found in a deck of cards used for poker) such that each corresponding

cell becomes effective if the symbol allocated to the corresponding cell (e.g. the

jack of spades, or the ten of hearts or the two of clubs or the king of diamonds,

etc.) is selected by a main lottery and (ii) at least one combination of cells

(composed of a same number of allocated symbols as the row or column cell

number) includes allocated symbols that (a) match a first predetermined winning

combination (e.g. a royal straight flush in spades or a flush in hearts or four of a

kind, etc.) having a first predetermined rank (e.g. a straight flush tops a flush

which in turn tops four of a kind, etc.) under a predetermined condition and (b)

are aligned along a first line among lines contained in the matrix.

      The Official Action is unclear as to where, within the applied combination,

these limitations are contended to be taught or suggested.

      Wei, as understood, discloses a matrix containing a plurality of cells, each

of which has an allocated first symbol (i.e. a number of a bingo game) such that

each corresponding cell becomes effective if the allocated first symbol to the

corresponding cell is selected by a main lottery. However, Wei further teaches

that at least one combination of cells may (although not necessarily will) include

allocated second symbols (i.e. a symbol commonly found in a deck of cards used

for poker) that (a) match a first predetermined winning combination (e.g. a royal

straight flush in spades or a flush in hearts or four of a kind, etc.) having a first

predetermined rank (e.g. a straight flush tops a flush which in turn tops four of a

kind, etc.) under a predetermined condition and (b) may be aligned along a first

line among lines contained in the matrix.

Thus, Wei explicitly teaches selecting symbols of one type (i.e. bingo numbers) to make cells effective while using symbols of another different type (i.e. card symbols) to form a predetermined winning combination having a first predetermined rank.

In contrast, the present invention requires that the selected symbols used to make cells effective be the same symbols that form a predetermined winning combination having a first predetermined rank.

Hence, the above noted limitations are clearly neither taught nor suggested by Wei. Furthermore, Matsumoto does not cure this deficiency in Wei. That is because Masumoto is directed to different types of bingo games and hence lacks any teaching or suggestion of symbols that form a predetermined winning combination, or more particularly a predetermined winning combination having a first predetermined rank.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the obviousness rejection of the independent claims (and their dependencies) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Pending Dependent Claims Also Further Distinguish Over the Applied Combinations

For example:

Claims 8-12 and 26 require a preliminary lottery for making at least one cell of the matrix effective prior to the main lottery.

The Official Action points to Figure 3 or Wei and Figure 22 of Matsumoto as at least suggesting such a preliminary lottery.

However, as understood, both Wei and Matsumoto lack any disclosure relating to two different types of lotteries or, more particularly, two different types of lotteries corresponding to the claimed preliminary and main lotteries. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that there is nothing in Figure 3 of Wei or Figure 22 of Matsumoto, or in their descriptions, to suggest otherwise.

Claim 21 requires a selection between (i) a first type win amount representing a predetermined amount associated with the first predetermined win rank and (ii) a second type win amount representing an amount bet by the player

multiplied by a factor associated with the first predetermined win rank, with the win amount being determined based also on the selected type of win amount.

The Official Action is unclear as to where such a selection might be suggested by Wei and Matsumoto, and it appears that these limitations may have inadvertently been ignored. Furthermore, as understood, neither Wei nor Matsumoto disclose a selection between different types of win amounts, or more particularly between (i) a first type win amount representing a predetermined amount associated with the first predetermined win rank and (ii) a second type win amount representing an amount bet by the player multiplied by a factor associated with the first predetermined win rank.

Claims 7, 24 and 25 require that (i) the symbols be allocated to the respective cells of the matrix such that the matrix contains a second line being constituted of a second combination with a second rank of the combination-making game, (ii) the player be allowed to bet game media on the first and/or second lines, and (iii) a determination be made as to whether the first and/or second lines are applicable to disbursement of game media in accordance with a bet number of game media the player has bet if all cells of the first and second lines become effective.

While it is acknowledged that Darby discloses placing bets on multiple lines of a matrix that displays different poker hands on each line, this disclosure is in the context of a player simultaneously playing multiple different games of poker. It is also acknowledged that Matsumoto discloses placing bets on multiple lines of a matrix displaying different strings of numbers on each line, but this disclosure is in the context of a player playing bingo. That is in both Darby and Matsumoto there are no allocated symbols forming a predetermined winning combination in cells which are made effective by lottery.

Wei, on the other hand, explicitly teaches that a predetermined winning combination having a first predetermined rank may be formed from the symbols in multiple lines (see column 5, lines 25-30). Thus, it is unclear how Wei can be modified in accordance with the teachings of Darby and/or Matsumoto as proposed by the Official Action, without violating a principle of operation of Wei.

Further still, claim 25 additionally requires that if all the cells that have the first combination of allocated symbols and the second combination of allocated symbols are determined to have been made effective, the win amount is determined by one either (i) determining a first factor associated with the first predetermined win rank and a second factor associated with the second predetermined win rank, computing a sum of the determined first and second factors, and computing the win amount by multiplying the amount bet by the player by the computed sum, or (ii) determining a largest of the first factor and the second factor, and computing the win amount by multiplying the amount bet by the player by the determined largest factor.

While it is acknowledged that Darby appears to disclose multiplying the amount bet by a pay table factor, what Darby, as understood, fails to disclose is the required determining of a first factor associated with the first predetermined win rank and of a second factor associated with the second predetermined win rank, and computing of a sum of the determined first and second factors, or the required determining of the largest of a first factor and a second factor and computing the win amount by multiplying the amount bet by the player by the determined largest factor.

The New Dependent Claims Also Further Distinguish Over the Applied Combinations

For example:

According to new claim 38-42, the allocated symbols are displayed to the player prior to making any of the cells effective, and the player is allowed to bet game media according to each of the multiple lines in the matrix, prior to any of the cells becoming effective.

Thus, unlike the applied prior art, in accordance with the present invention the player is allowed to place bets on each line of the matrix while knowing the exact rank of the card symbols on each line (i.e. straight flush with king of spades high, flush in hearts, straight with a jack high, four of a kind, pair of 2s, etc.) that will (subject to the symbols made effective during the play of the game) determine the outcome of the game of poker.

According to claims 43-52 circles close to the respective lines in which winning combinations are formed are indicated or displayed, so that a player can recognize for at least a short time which lines are formed in winning combinations.

Claims 48-52 further require display of the number of bet game media instead of one of the circles close to a bet line of the respective lines in which winning combinations are formed, in order to facilitate viewing of how much game media is bet on the respective lines in which winning combinations are formed.

As understood, the applied prior art lacks any teaching or suggestion of such limitations.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No.1227.42916x00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

/Alfred A. Stadnicki/

Alfred A. Stadnicki
Registration No. 30,226

1300 North Seventeenth Street
Suite 1800

Arlington, VA 22209
Tel.: 703-312-6600
Fax.: 703-312-6666

AAS/kbl